



# Valley Fiber Arts Guild Newsletter

September 2020

Matanuska Susitna Valley Alaska

**No September Meeting:** The Palmer library remains closed to the public.

## Letter From the President

Good day Fiber Friends!

As summer starts to see colors change and cooler breezes it is again time to start up our normal routine, but this year is far from normal! We usually begin our year with our first meeting in September, but the library where we normally meet is closed and no word when it will reopen. Also, the Alaska State Fairgrounds is hosting an event the first Saturday in September that many of our regular meeting goers usually like to attend, so we are canceling our first meeting in September.

We continue to work on our website, the challenge remains the site is no longer hosted and we can change very little. Alyssa did a great job of doing as much update as we can, thank you!! We are tossing around the idea of a technology committee, led by a savvy person that will help the Guild be more visible in the community and achieve our mission of education and outreach. If you know a member who is interested please have them contact a Board Member! Very few folks have paid their dues this year, please pay your dues via our website and mail. Thank you.

We will be meeting the first Saturday of October; the meeting will be available via Zoom for the Guild members. An email with the Zoom link and meeting invite will be sent to everyone. So, mark your calendars for our Guild Meeting on October 3rd at 10:15am.

We are very hopeful things will get back to normal, but we will continue to follow the guidelines issued by the CDC and step gingerly into our community events as they happen.

October 23-25 is our Fall Retreat, and Camp Maranatha has had a lot of success with its operating plan (which was approved by the State) and the normal safeguards will be in place. We encourage everyone to respect each other's choices to attend the retreat, or not. If you don't feel safe to attend, please don't. We are expecting this retreat will look different from any other so far, be on the lookout for more information very soon!

Thank you and as always, stay safe!  
Sending my love, Natalie

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## Membership dues: Big changes

At the May meeting the VFAG board announced changes to the VFAG policies to raise dues to \$30.00 per year and also changed the dues collection year to match the fiscal year which runs January to December. This means dues paid between now and December 31, 2020 apply to 2020 only, and dues paid January 1 – December 31, 2021 apply to 2021. If this causes a hardship for any current members, please contact President Natalie 907-312-3107. An account has been opened to take donations for helping others with membership fees. Donations can be made at <https://new.valleyfiberarts.org/home/guild-membership-dues/>

### To Pay Dues or Make Donations:

- (1) Pay online at our website: <https://new.valleyfiberarts.org/home/guild-membership-dues/>
- (2) Attend a meeting and bring your payment.
- (3) Send a check to VFAG, PO Box 876098, Wasilla, AK 99687

*When paying dues please be sure to include your email in order to receive the newsletter.*

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## Upcoming Events for VFAG

### **Saturday, October 3, 2020 Valley Fiber Arts Guild Meeting**

This 10:15 AM meeting will be conducted via Zoom

### **October 23-25, 2020 Alaskan Fiber Arts Retreat**

The fall *Alaskan Fiber Arts Retreat* (AFAR) at Camp Maranatha near Big Lake. Retreat Manager, Natalie Wolfe, says the retreat is being planned:

Camp Maranatha has had a lot of success with its operating plan (which was approved by the State) and the normal safeguards will be in place. We encourage everyone to respect each other's choices to attend the retreat, or not. If you don't feel safe to attend, please don't. We are expecting this retreat will look different from any other so far, be on the lookout for more information very soon

Future retreat dates:

2021: Spring: April 23-25; Fall: October 22-24

### **Saturday, November 28, 2020: Out of the Box Sale:**

The Out of the Box sale is still on the calendar at this time. The chance of this event happening at this time is 50:50. Sale organizer, Julia Lenz, will be surveying committee members, VFAG members and potential vendors to learn their enthusiasm/concerns about attending this sale and then report as to the potential to hold this event.

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## Announcements

### Results of May 2020 Elections for VFAG Board Members:

President: Natalie Wolfe

Secretary: Amanda Johnson

Workshop Coordinator: Mabel Wimmer

### Updating the VFAG Website

Allyssa Davis and Tracey Eason have been working at updating and revising the Valley Fiber Arts Guild webpage. The page address is <https://new.valleyfiberarts.org/home/guild-membership-dues/>. At this time basic information is available including the ability to pay member dues and make donations. This is a work in progress and improvements will come as these helpful volunteers have the time.

### Subscription to Zoom Video Conferencing

VFAG has purchased a subscription to Zoom. This can be used to conduct meetings during this Covid isolation time. Zoom can also be used to conduct virtual fiber meet-ups and present classes.

### The Wheel Doctor is Open for Business: Der Veel Dokto says:

Hi Fiber Artists:

This is to let you know that Der Veel Doktor is still available for service or repairs to spinning wheels. The rules are pretty much unchanged: He does not charge for parts or labor but he does not do house calls. Face masks are required and social distancing is practiced. So if your wheel needs servicing or repairs, call Der Veel Doktor at 907 345 7216.

I hope that all of the Valley Fiber Artists are well and enjoying the pleasures of creating with fiber.

Best regards to all

David Junge AKA Der Veel Doktor

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## Fairbanks Fiber Fest 2020

### October 3 and 4, 2019 Fairbanks Fiber Festival

The Fairbanks Fiber Festival will be online this year. See the note below sent by Abby Hatfield. For vendor, instructor, or volunteer applications visit their website: <https://www.fairbanksfiberfestival.com/>

Hi everyone!

My name is Abby and I work with Calypso Farm, one of the organizations who helps put on the annual Fairbanks Fiber Festival.

The Fiber Fest committee has decided that the 2020 festival will take place online this year, in order to protect the health and wellness of the Fairbanks community. We're continuing to work

through the details of how this will work, but we're excited to create an array of online opportunities such as a virtual vendor marketplace, online workshops, etc.

That being said, we're trying to gather information now to see who might be interested in participating in the Festival this year - virtually.

Would you be interested in selling online this fall as part of the Fiber Festival? If so, are you already set up to do online sales (we could just link to your existing site) or would you be interested having help setting up an online sales platform?

We're just trying to get a read right now on how we'll move forward, so if you'd be interested in something else such as an online workshop, demo, etc - please let me know. Thanks for any information you can provide! We are also happily taking suggestions and we will keep you up to date as we have more information!

Abby Hatfield, Community Outreach & Fundraising Assistant, Calypso Farm & Ecology Center, 907-451-0691 | [calypsofarm.org](http://calypsofarm.org)

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## Board of Directors:

### Officers

President: Natalie Wolfe, [gmat71@yahoo.com](mailto:gmat71@yahoo.com)

Vice President: Alyssa Davis [allyssamariedavis@gmail.com](mailto:allyssamariedavis@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Tracey Eason, [tracey.eason@gmail.com](mailto:tracey.eason@gmail.com)

Secretary: Amanda Johnson, [mandaj\\_29@yahoo.com](mailto:mandaj_29@yahoo.com)

### Members at Large

News Editor: Julia Lenz, [moor.lenz@gmail.com](mailto:moor.lenz@gmail.com), 907-250-9136

Historian: Judy Niemeyer, [jweaves0610@gmail.com](mailto:jweaves0610@gmail.com)

Workshop Coordinator: Mabel Wimmer, [mabelwimmer@gmail.com](mailto:mabelwimmer@gmail.com)